Subject: Franklin Peale Collection of Medals

[Asst. Assayer, U.S. Mint, Phila.]

Patterson, Franklin Peale

[San Francisco, CA]

1919

1158 FILBERT ST.,
SAN FRANCISCO.

Feb. 25, 1919.

Mr. Howland Wood;
Curator Am. Numismatic Soc.,
156th. St. and Broadway,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Acting upon the suggestion of Mr. Farran Zerbe I am writing to you regarding a collection of medals which I wish to dispose of. This collection was made by Franklin Peale, Assistant Assayer of the United States Mint in Philadelphia from 1833 to 1836; Melter and Refiner from 1836 to 1839; and Chief Coiner from 1839 to 1854. I append a list of the medals now in the collection (four or five of the original collection are missing). They are mounted in books so that both sides can be seen. Mr. Zerbe tells me that many of them are odd sizes which cannot now be obtained from the mint.

I would like to sell this collection if possible as I am going away and they are too heavy to carry. As I am leaving very soon may I beg you to give me an immediate answer as to the possibility of being able to sell them to you,- or can you tell me how I can find a market for them?

Yours very truly

Franklin Peale Patterson.

Franklin Peale Collection Catalogue (Copy)

Vol. 1. Index.

Vol. 2. The dies for the Medals of the Revolutionary period were mostly executed in France, and some of them are still preserved in the museum of Medals in Paris: Two only are in the mint, those of medals given to General Gates, were given to Adam Eckfeldt, formerly Chief Coiner, by Aaron Burr, on the occasion of striking a number of medals for the family of the General. The dies for the medal of General Morgan were given to his family and, as a matter of course, lost or destroyed; the pair in the Mint were renewed by Act of Congress and medals struck from them in 1840, they were executed in France from lead or plaster impressions from the original medal. The medal of Comodore Truxton was struck from a restored pair of dies (engraved in Scot.) in the Mint, the originals were given to Mr. Eckfeldt by a member of the family. An attempt was made by the Engraver of the Mint at an early period to execute dies for a medal voted by Congress to General Fleury Lee, but failed, the obverse, badly executed and finally spoiled, is in the mint with the reverse,-the medal in this volumn was struck from them. Two medals evidently intended for Indian affairs, were struck from dies in the Mint, they are certainly the earliest attempts at medal engraving in this country, they are dated 1756 and 1757. (Note, relative to the Medal of 1757, being an extract from a letter of Joseph Richardson, formerly assayer of the mint, dated Phila.,June 12, 1813. To Thomas Wistar: "The impressions which I now offer respectfully for thy acceptance are from dies which have long been in the possession of my predecessor and myself.At the early time in which they were engraved coining presses were unknown in this country, they were therefore cut on punches fixed in sockets and struck with a sledge hammer. The Indian medal of 1757 was struck at the expense of a Society (chiefly composed of friends) formed in Philadelphia for the express purpose of promoting peace with the Indian tribes.") All the other medals of the Revolutionary era are electrotype copies from moulds made from the original medals or authentic copies of them by F. Peale.

1. Gates.
2. Morgan.
3. Truxtan.
4. Lee.
5. Kosciusco.
6. Washington (Sansoms dies)
7. George 2'nd.
8. Armstrong.
9. Paulding (missing)

Vol. 3. The dies for the medals of this volume were executed in France under the direction of Franklin and Colonel Humphreys. Some of them are preserved in the cabinet of the Museum of Medals in Paris, including those of General Washington. The dies for the Preble Medal were sent by sea from Boston with the intent to have medals struck for the family but the vessel never arrived at her destination. These copies were all made by the electrotype process in moulds from the original medals or authentic copies

by F. Peale.
10. Washington
11. Preble.
12. Green.
13. Wayne. (missing)
14. Paul Jones.
15. Stewart.
16. Wm. Washington.
17. Howard.
18. De Fleury.

Vol. 4. Medals were voted by Congress to the Officers of the Army and Navy for services during the contest with Great Brittain, usually called the war of 1812, the dies for which medals were all engraved by Ffurst. In this volume is also a medal presented by the State of Pennsylvania to Perry.
19. Hull.
20. Jones.
21. Decatur.
22. Perry.
23. Bainbridge.
24. Perry (State Medal.)

Vol. 5. (War of 1812 continued.) Burrows was killed in the action which his medal commemorates. There was no likeness of him extant, his name inscribed on a tablet with emblematic accompaniments was therefore substituted for the usual obverse device. The Pennsylvania State medal to the officers of Perry's fleet contains a wreath with a field for the engraved name of the person to whom it was awarded.
25. Burrows.
26. Elliott.
27. McCall.
28. Lawrence.
29. Macdonough.
30. Perry's Officers.

Vol. 6. (War of 1812 continued.)
31. Stewart.
32. Biddle.
33. Blakeley.
34. Warrington.
35. Henley.
36. Cassin.

Vol 7. (War of 1812 continued.)
37. Brown.
38. Gaines.
39. Miller.
40. Porter.
41. Ripley.
42. Macomb.

Vol. 8. (War of 1812 continued.)
43. Scott.
44. Shelby.
45. Jackson.

46. Harrison.
47. Croghan.

The medal to the last number and name was not struck till 1835.

Vol. 9. A few medals were voted by congress to officers who distinguished themselves during the war with Mexico. In this volume are three given to Gen. Taylor. This volume contains also a copy of the medals presented by the General government to the officers and seamen of the Brittish and French navy for services to the crew of the Somers U. S. Brig of War at Vera Cruz. Also a medal voted to Lt. Col. Bliss by the State of New York, and a small medal from the Navy Dept. to officers of the Coast Survey on the occasion and for services at the time when Lt. Bache lost his life.

48. Taylor.
49. Palo Alto.
50. Monterey.
51. Somers.
52. Bliss.
53. Coast Survery.

Vol. 10. This volume contains a copy of the large medal voted by Congress to Gen. Scott, March 9, 1848, also a copy of the medal voted to him by the state of Virginia of equal size. An inauguration medal of Pres. Van Buren and a copy of the medal presented to Com. M. C. Perry by the Merchants of Boston in honor of the treaty with Japan.

54. Scott.
55. Scott (Virginia State.)
56. M. C. Perry,
57. Van Buren.

Vol. 11. Medals of silver were struck and given to Indian Chiefs as badges of authority by the Government of Greta Brittain bearing on the Obverse the head of George III and on the Reverse the Royal Arms,-this custom was followed by the United States and was the origin of the Presidential Series beginning during the administration of Thomas Jefferson in 1801. They were of three sizes and all bore the same devices on the Reverse side emblematic of peace between the White and Red Men. No medals were struck during the administration of John Adams but a die was engraved bearing his protrait by Ffurst and given to Adam Eckfeldt from which a medal was struck and placed in this volume. The commemoration medal is a copy of the original but its origen unknown.

58. Jefferson (one of the largest medals ever struck in any country.)
59. " (second size)
60. " (third size)
61. " (Declaration of I.)
62. Adams.

Vol. 12. Cont. of Presidents.

63. Munroe.
64. " (second size)
65. " (third size)
66. Madison (missing)
67. " (second size)
68. " (third size)

Vol. 13. Cont. of Presidents.
69. Adams.
70. " (second size)
71. " (third size)
72. Jackson
73. " (second size) missing
74. " (third size)

Vol. 14. Cont. Of Pres.
75. Van Buren.
76. "
77. "
78. Tyler
79. "
80. "

Vol. 15. Cont. of Pres.
81. Polk.
82. "
83. "
84. Taylor.
85. "
86. "
This number closes the list of those medals which may be considered national.

Vol. 16.
87. Henry Clay.
88. Adam Ackfeldt.
89. R. M. Patterson (missing)
90. Count Rumford.
91. Archimedes.

Vol. 17.
92. United Bowmen.
93. Musical Fund Society.
94. Military Accademy.
95. Genl. Taylor.
96. Dr. Rush.
97. Dr. Ilosack.
98. Tyler Inauguration.
99. Ricketts Circus.
100. Steam Coinage U. S. A.
101. Charles Carroll.
102. William Page, Artist.
103. Robert and Louise Gilmore. Golden Wedding.

Vol. 18.
104. Scott legacy. Agri. Soc.
105. Mass, Charter Mec. Ass.
106. Franklin Institute.
107. " Scott Premium.
108. Franklin Premium.
109. Franklin Inst. Gold Medal.
110. Met. Mec. Ass.
111. Worcester Mec. Ass.
112. Salem Char. Mec. Acc.
113. Mass. Char. Mec. Ass.

Vol. 19.
114. Royal Hawaian Agri. Soc.
115. Town of Portsmouth (for medical services during the visitation of cholera.)
116. Boston City Schools.
117. Samuel Appleton.
118. Penn Hort'l. Soc.
119. Mass Hort'l Soc.
120. Peabody.
121. Penn State Hort'l Soc.
122. Franklin School, Boston.
123. N. Y. Exhib of All Nations.

Vol. 20.(Washington Cabinet.)
124-128 Washington 3 of these are missing.
129-131 Washington and Franklin.

March 3rd, 1919.

Mr. Franklin Peale Patterson,
1158 Filbert Street,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of February 24th at hand, and we much appreciated the fact that you would desire to place the medals assembled by Franklin Peale in our Society for being placed in a permanent Museum the collection would consequently remain intact and keep its individuality. Just at present I can say only this - that this Society would be interested in your proposition. We, however, would not attempt to buy the collection without seeing it. Museums and Societies for the most part have very little money to spend but are able at times to interest certain good friends to purchase collections for the Society. If you care to ship this collection on, including all historical data, &c that might pertain or go with the series, we would try to interest one of our members in purchasing the collection. Also we wish you would name your very best price and in this connection you might be able to afford to sell it at a lower price to a Museum who would be able to show it to more people than a private collector could and who are in a position to keep it intact and bearing the name of the person who formed it.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.